

THE FRENCH ADMINISTRATION OF INDO-CHINA

significant that the Yenbay murders took place so near the Chinese frontier. All of these incidents, and the obvious link between Annamite nationalism and Cantonese Communism, delayed from 1930 to 1935 negotiation of the badly needed commercial treaty between China and France.

The Yunnanese are undeniably dependent on the French, but they do little to cater to their wishes. The cultural influence which France has exuded in that province has not been the success its sponsor anticipated. Yunnan's geographic and economic dependence on Indo-China has perhaps had a sobering influence on Soviet activities there, since the French controlled their only egress to the sea. But only recently Yunnan got an Italian to head its new hospital, in spite of the French hospitals which have functioned for many years in Yunnanfou, Mongtzeu, and Canton. In 1920 an English company was given a ten-year monopoly of local aeroplane building. Yet in that same year eight hundred Chinese students went to study in France, and Peking considered asking Lyon to open a special Chinese University. In Yunnan and Kwang-Si, France has both technical and regular schools in the main towns, for whose graduates scholarships are reserved in the University of Hanoi. In 1929, there were about three hundred French in Yunnan and six thousand Annamites. If France is not popular in that province, no foreign power is, or even the Chinese government itself. Banditry and opium contraband are to-day probably the most tense practical problems along the frontier, but it is the recent establishment of Soviets at Longtcheu, two days away from Tonkin, that has aroused the greatest concern in the colony.

Japan

The Russo-Japanese War alarmed French opinion for the safety of Indo-China. It marked the beginning of the Yellow Peril psychology in France, as well as a more serious appreciation of Japanese strength. The first reaction was to strengthen Indo-China's military defence. A number of officers sprang forward to tell how vulnerable was the colony's undefended coastline, France's position, at this time, between her allies Russia and, more recently, England—herself the ally¹ of Japan—was somewhat delicate. Peroz's contemporary book¹ tried to show the Japanese menace was based on land hunger. He was indignant at French public opinion that looked benignly on Nippon as a friend of Mesdames Chiysantfenes. Most of the Japanese ladies in Jaefo-

¹ Pfarcs 1Lieit,-C01. **Etfeone**, *JPrance et Japm mIntlocMme* (foris, 1906).